

IN THE CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A fuel cell, comprising:

an anode-electrolyte-cathode unit having an anode catalyst; and

means for impressing a positive voltage pulse on the anode, whereby the fuel cell have a voltage that does not change sign and at most becomes zero so that U (fuel cell) = U (cathode) - U (anode) > 0 .

2. A method for removing carbon monoxide from an anode catalyst of a fuel cell comprising the step of impressing at least one positive voltage pulse on the anode, whereby the fuel cell has a voltage that does not change sign and at most becomes zero so that U (fuel cell) = U (cathode) - U (anode) > 0 .

3. A method as defined in claim 2, including impressing repeated positive voltage pulses on the anode.

4. A method as defined in claim 2, further including using reformed alcohols as fuel.

5. A method as defined in claim 2, further including using reformed hydrocarbons as fuel.

6. A method as defined in claim 4, including reforming the alcohols internally in the fuel cell.

7. A method as defined in claim 5, including reforming the hydrocarbons internally in the fuel cell.

8. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein a direct conversion of alcohols takes place at the anode.

9. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein a direct conversion of hydrocarbons takes place at the anode.